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PATENT

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Luciano F. Paone

Examiner: S. Kabakoff

Serial No.: 08/989,261

Group Art Unit: 2767

Filed: December 12, 1997

Docket: 831-2

For: COMPUTER IMPLEMENTED
SECRET OBJECT KEY BLOCK CIPHER
ENCRYPTION AND DIGITAL
SIGNATURE DEVICE AND METHOD

Dated: August 16, 2000

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

I hereby certify this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, postpaid in an envelope, addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C.

20231 on

Dated: 8/16/00, Ellen Wang

AMENDMENT

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated March 16, 2000, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 3, 4, 25-29, 33 and 35, without prejudice.

Please amend Claims 1, 2, 5, 7, 8, 9, 21 and 22 follows:

1. (Amended) A computer implemented method for encrypting data

comprising the steps of:

creating [an] at least one object key in a block cipher, the at least one object

key comprising data and methods that operate on said data;

creating a key schedule based upon the at least one object key;

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